

**FOSTER SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
CAPTAIN ISAAC PAINE SCHOOL CAFETERIA  
May 26, 2009**

**Executive Session - 6:30 PM  
Open Session – 7:00PM**

**1. CONVENE MEETING:**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Recited during the Open Session.

**3. ROLL CALL:**

Chairman Ron Cervasio, Vice Chair Cindy Bernard, and Member Dennis Chretien were present. Mr. Piccirilli, Legal Counsel and Mrs. McCullough, School Committee secretary were also present.

**4. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the School Committee voted to convene into Executive Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 at 6:36 pm to consider (a) Personnel (2) Collective Bargaining and Litigation. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard, the School Committee voted to recess and go into Open session at 6:55 pm. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

The Chair, Mr. Cervasio, reconvened Open Session at 7:00 pm. He also relayed that the Committee had met in Executive Session to discuss negotiations and litigation and that no votes were taken. On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded Mr. Chretien the School Committee voted to seal the minutes. Motion passed. 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio – yes

Mrs. Bernard – yes

Mr. Chretien – no

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Requests to Use School Facilities
- b. 2009-2010 Calendar
- c. RFP for food Services
- d. Special Education – Policy – final Reading
- e. Approval of Minutes
- f. Approval of Warrants

Mr. Cervasio explained his is a new item – Consent Agenda – if a School Committee member would like to pull something off the Consent Agenda then they needed to make that clear before a motion is entertained to accept all of the above with one motion. Mrs. Bernard asked to have the Minutes and Warrants pulled off. Mr. Cervasio said the Committee was going to vote on a, b, c, & d and asked for a motion. On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee accepted the ‘Requests to

Use School Facilities as presented, the 2009-2010 Calendar as presented, RFP for Food Services and Special Education Policy – Final Reading”. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the Minutes for April 28, 2009, item #6, the motion needs to be changed to reflect the exact motion. Mr. Cervasio asked the Secretary to listen to the tape from the April 28, 2009 meeting for the correct motion. This item was not voted on and the Committee decided to table. Item #13 and #15, School Committee Procedures, Information Letter, need to reflect the exact motions. Item #19 Moving of the Business Office needed the comments made by Mr. Cervasio to be put into the Minutes and #22 Foster/Glocester Resource Sharing needs to reflect being moved up on the Agenda and discussed with Moving of the Business Office. #21 Public Comment the Committee asked that the student’s name not be included in the Minutes.

The Minutes from May 15, 2009 needed to be reformatted to reflect the Agenda items and Mr. Piccirilli be labeled as the ‘Legal Counsel’ and Mrs. McCullough be labeled as ‘Recording Secretary’. Mrs. Bernard made a motion to accept the Minutes as corrected Mr. Cervasio seconded. Mr. Chretien amended the motion to withhold the Minutes from April 28, 2009 meeting and go back to the tape from that meeting to get the correct motion, Mr. Cervasio seconded. Motion passed. 3-0-0. Mr. Cervasio went back to the main motion to accept the minutes as corrected except, April 28, 2009. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to accept the Executive Minutes as previously amended. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Cervasio the School Committee voted to seal the Executive Minutes of March 24, 2009. Motion passed. 2-1-0.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio – yes

Mrs. Bernard – yes

Mr. Chretien – no

On a motion by Mr. Chretien to accept check register of May 7, 2009 \$106,924.38 Mr. Cervasio seconded, Mrs. Bernard has rescued due to a gas line item.

Motion passed. 2-0-0-1.

Vote as follows:

Mr. Cervasio – yes

Mrs. Bernard – rescued

Mr. Chretien – yes

## **6. MOVING OF THE BUSINESS OFFICE**

Mr. Cervasio relayed discussions he has had with the Regional Superintendent about moving the Business Office this year. The Regional Superintendent said their workload and the workloads here, due the change of the Chart of Accounts, would be too much, maybe next year. A discussion ensued. Dr. Halley interjected that any decisions to be made on this move or before a School Committee vote, there would be a presentation as

to savings and the actual costs and this information would be available to the taxpayer but that this is only a preliminary discussion and that this is under consideration.

## **7. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR**

""Mr. Cervasio said that he has been accused of all kinds of things. He said that Mr. Piccirilli is a specialist in education law. Mr. Piccirilli has had six cases against the gentleman that a lot of legal information coming out from to the PTG, he won all those cases. Mr. Cervasio said he has been accused of taking action, of being political - if you get half information that you operate with that's a political action and there are politics being played downtown that are being added to the people in this audience. Mr. Cervasio said he would not do anything to hurt kids. He has done more for this school then a lot of people. The school use to have rugs in it and it was Mr. Cervasio's actions that made the rugs go out of the school which benefits the children.

If anybody needs any legal advice, he can't give it but gives anyone permission to call Mr. Piccirilli and get proper educational, legal advice.

He brought a couple of articles, one is out of the "Economists" and the parents that are so interested in your children, if we don't retool Rhode Island and America, everything you are trying to do here to benefit your children - your children will suffer in the end. He brought an article from the "Economists" called "Little Rhody in the Red". At the Region they call Mr. Cervasio's articles "Ron's Readings". His other article is from Time magazine, "How to Raise the Standards in American Schools". These articles should be of interest to the parents. He had about 10 available for audience members.

One of the things Mr. Cervasio said he has been accused of is an action. He read a letter from Karen S. Murray, Hearing Officer, RIDE, 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI, regarding: Gary Moore vs. Foster School Committee.

"Dear Hearing Officer Murray,

I am in receipt of your letter of May 6, 2009. While there is no doubt of your ability to remain impartial in this case, I am concerned about the politically charged nature of the non-renewal of Mr. Gary Moore. That a member of your School Committee met with you and the Commissioner without notice to the other Committee members or myself and the discussion of non-renewal of Mr. Moore compels me to ask that a new hearing officer be appointed so that to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

Thank you for your understanding in this regard." This letter is Mr. Piccirilli writing the hearing officer.

The person that went to the Department of Education is sitting next to Mr. Cervasio. Mr. Cervasio said Mr. Chretien went there to discuss curriculum coordination. Two years Mr. Cervasio sat here and tried to work out curriculum coordination to get Foster schools back to the Region to talk about the benefit to your children. He said Mr. Chretien sat on the side line. Then Mr. Chretien went downtown and pretended he was working for curriculum coordination and while he was there he took what is called action. Mr. Cervasio said Mr. Chretien's action was unethical and was the very thing Mr. Cervasio was accused of. He said the audience could ask Mr. Piccirilli while he is at the meeting if Ron took an action. The Chair has special abilities to do things that the members do not. Mr. Cervasio said he would make the letter available to anyone. That's the end. This is "Comments from the Chair". ""

Mr. Chretien said when Mr. Cervasio makes accusations about another member of the Committee, then he demands the right to respond to those accusations.

Mr. Cervasio said he could do it on the next agenda.

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE - UPDATE**

Mrs. Fountain, Chair, said that there wasn't anything to report at this point in time. The Committee had only met twice and has two more meetings planned. She said that these meetings are open and invites anyone to offer opinions and/or ideas to the Committee.

## **9. ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCH PROCESS**

Dr. Halley suggested establishing a process for screening applicants; also, making some preliminary decisions for three possible positions, ie., Principal/Superintendent, Principal, and /or part-time Superintendent and start appointing people to form a Search Committee. Mr. Cervasio asked for a motion to advertise forming a selection committee. Mr. Chretien made a motion to advertise for a selection committee that will help in determining who will fill these positions and that we ask Dr. Halley next month to return with recommendations for what type of members should be made up of that committee. There was no second. Motion failed.

Mr. Chretien made a motion to advertise for people to apply to be a member of the Committee and ask Dr. Halley to ask groups that he thinks are relevant ie., PTG, Administrative Review Committee, the teaching staff, and members of the Town Council and ask them to find someone who would be willing to serve on the Committee and that we build the Committee quickly and accept applicants. Dr. Halley rephrased the motion to say that the School Committee will advertise for members of the Community to be on the Administrative Search Committee and have Dr. Halley assist in the process. Mrs. Bernard seconded. Discussion followed. Motion passed. 2-1-0.

Motion as follows:

Mr. Cervasio - no

Mrs. Bernard - yes

Mr. Chretien - yes

## **10. TRANSPORTATION**

Different bussing options were discussed.

## **11. KINDERGARTEN - DISCUSSION**

Classroom availability and half day vs. full day kindergarten were discussed.

## **12. TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. Chretien had nothing to report.

## **13. STATE TESTING - DISCUSSION**

No report.

#### **14. BUILDING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chretien relayed that the Board of Education and the Board of Regents are requiring the school department to have an "Asset Protection Plan" in place by July 1, 2010.

#### **15. 2009-2010 BUDGET**

Budget was tabled.

#### **16. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT POLICY #5141.1 - REVIEW / PROPOSED**

On a motion by Mr. Chretien and seconded by Mrs. Bernard the School Committee voted to accept the first reading of the "Child Abuse and Neglect Policy". See the attached policy.

Motion passed. 3-0-0.

#### **17. KINDERGARTEN AGE REQUIREMENT POLICY - DISCUSSION**

This policy to read as follows:

A resident child may enter Kindergarten of the Foster School District under stipulations as set forth herewith. It is the intent of the School Committee that stated entrance requirements will be in compliance with R.I.G.L. Title 16, Chapter 2, Section 27. On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee voted to accept the Foster School District school age requirements policy's the first reading.

Motion passed. 3-0-0.

#### **18. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

#### **19. FOSTER AND GLOCESTER HUMAN RESOURCES SHARING**

Mr. Chretien relayed there was nothing new to report.

#### **20. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Halley supplies the Committee with the news letter for the month of May; also, a report from the coordination meeting between Paine school, the two Gloucester elementary schools and the Ponaganset Middle school discussing the summer reading program.

#### **21. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Cairone shared an event concerning the Paine school playground, and that there is a get together on Saturday June 13, 2009 for maintenance. Mrs. Fountain commented on the late bus issues. Mrs. Mansolillo commented on past practices of the playground maintenance. Mrs. Portney reminded everyone of the Walk-A-Thon for the American Cancer Society taking place at the school.

#### **22. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Second readings on policies.

**23. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mrs. Bernard and seconded by Mr. Chretien the School Committee voted to adjourn at 8:45 pm. Motion passed. 3-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Helena McCullough  
School Committee Clerk